

Approved

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Hearing
Minutes of December 17, 2012**

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Malcolm Allison, John Lyon, Bob Mantegari, Dianne Vosgien (School Board Representative), Ken Christiansen (Selectmen Rep), Krista Steger.

Visitors: Crystal Buswell, Jessie Hollister, Kathy St Hilaire, Jim Clark, Bob Gilbert, Tracy Waldron, Kevin Lemoine

Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

1. Motion to approve draft minutes from December 3, 2012. Bob/Dianne With correction Approved 8-0.
2. Correspondence – Elyse reminded the committee that our next meetings are scheduled for January 7, and 14 and that we will be voting on the remaining budgets including the Swasey School budget and it is important we are all present. Today we will get an update of the fire-calls report from the Chief as requested by Bob. Elyse also distributed a newer version of the library budget sent by email. An email was received from Mike Morgan requesting a delay of the Swasey School budget vote.

Old Business:

1. **Swasey School Budget** – Motion to postpone Swasey budget voting, Bob/Ken. The school board could not reach a decision on the final number and expects to do so at their next meeting. Elyse relayed info from School Board meeting minutes, and noted that they didn't reflect any good faith effort to reduce the budget with the exception of the principal. Dianne explained that a key board member was absent at that meeting. Diane said that the draft budget we have will most likely change. Elyse asked if the Board would be acting on any decision re: full-time kindergarten for September. Right now it is not in this budget. Dianne said they have only discussed the decision to create a committee to explore full time kindergarten. Elyse suggested that, as with all new programs not mandated by the State, the School Board present this to the school district meeting prior to budgeting and implementation. This was done with the first Kindergarten. Motion to postpone the vote on the school budget passed 6-2. Discussion followed on school budget. The School Board spent surplus monies two days short of the fiscal year end to update a playground. The amount spent was \$98,000.00 from Swasey's surplus, approximately \$.21 cents per thousand in assessed value or about \$75.00 per home in Brentwood. Dianne stated that the board was advised by Joan Ostrowski that the playground needed to be upgraded to make it ADA compliant. Budcom felt this was not an emergency expenditure and should have been presented to the town in the budget rather than unilaterally deciding to expend the money last minute to do this work. Negated all the budgeting efforts of this Board and should have been returned to the general fund. The sentiment was duly noted by Dianne.

(Dianne departed following Swasey discussion).

2. **Fire Department Budget** - 4220-19. Motion to discuss Bob/Malcolm. Chief Lemoine passed out the annual state report (2011) that the department is required to submit to Concord showing the number of 911/emergency calls per year. Total calls (not including service calls of 322) for 2011 were 630, an average of about 1.5 calls per day. The data for 2012 is about the same. The money from the sale of the old firehouse is still tied up in a legal issue over distribution. Motion to approve 5-2 in amount of \$297,775.00. Chief Lemoine advised that

there may be a FD Warrant Article requesting hot top completion of the FD driveway (est. \$46,000 dollars).

3. **Library Budget** - 4550-49. Motion to discuss Ken/Bob. Jim Clark distributed a newer version (deleting draft received earlier) which is proposed for \$207,922.31. Jim advised this is an updated proposal to include the most current expenses and also includes additional salary to expand the library hours. Stated that patrons were queried and are asking for more hours. Discussion to have budget that holds 2% amount over last year and does not include additional salary adjustment for the Director. Motion to approve in the amount of \$207,922.31 Failed 6-1.

New motion (Bob/Elyse) in the amount of \$202,347.00, representing removal of the expanded hours (salaries and benefits to cover same). Approved in the amount of \$202,347.00, 6-1 (Krista and Bill asked Ken to carry this number back to the Selectmen since this number is different than what that board approved previously). Budcom also suggested to the Trustees that they present the issue for expanded hours to the whole town, not just patrons, including costs associated to expand the hours.

New Business:

4. **Recreation Budget** – 4520-40 Motion Bob/Krista. Budcom inquired why 3% bonus (above 2%COLA raise) can't come from revenue revolving fund income stream. Ken advised this was discussed last year and the Selectmen did not feel this would be a clean accounting issue, however would ask them again to reconsider. This is the second 3% request; would this come up annually? Kathy will explore the issue of using money from this account to provide an incentive/bonus based on revenue generated and report back. Motion to approve in the amount of \$36,421.00 approved 6-1.
5. **Planning Board Budget** – 4191-13 Motion Bob/Malcolm. Ken advised this includes money to review and update impact fees related to the CIP for the town. The is required every five years to assess if impact fees are appropriate and what should impact fees should be assessed based on any growth in town . Bruce Maybury (impact fee expert in the state) will provide this service. Motion to approve in the amount of \$89.995.00 approved, 7-0.
6. Home sales sheet was distributed that shows sales at assessed, and below assessed values for year to date.
7. Ken will provide the impact fees amount for our next meeting.

Warrant Articles

1. **New Outlook funding** – Bob/Malcolm, to appropriate \$1,000.00, approved 6-1.
2. **Mosquito Control** – Bob/Malcolm, to appropriate \$30,500.00, approved 7-0. If approved at Town meeting, next year this will be in operating budget.
3. **Bridge Construction** – Bob/Malcolm, to appropriate \$1,225,000.00 for bridge replacement for Crawley Falls bridge, and other town owned bridges as needed for maintaining and repairing, motion to table pending additional wording on warrant, approved to table 7-0.
4. **Capital Reserve for Maintenance of Town Buildings** – Bob/Malcolm, to appropriate \$50,000.00, approved 7-0.
5. **Town to appropriate \$5,000.00 For contribution to PlanNH Community Charette Program.** This money will only be expended if the town is endorsed by PlanNH for 2013 Program, Failed 6-1.
6. **Road Repair** – to appropriate \$250,000.00. Road agent has a quote to repair Stevens Drive of \$163,000.00 and also hopes to do work on Mary Vey Drive, approved 7-0.

7. **Highway Buildings** - to appropriate \$50,000.00 to existing Capital Reserve for construction of highway building, approved 7-0.

Other Business

1. Elyse passed out entire proposed and approved town budget (Selectmen's), showing the town requests are up 4.57%. Any budgets may be reviewed again at our next two meetings.
2. Elyse passed out tax implication draft for proposed ERCSD budget: .83 per thousand valuation. To be voted Wednesday at the ERCSD budget advisory meeting, and public is welcome. Deliberative Session on this budget is February 7 at the Exeter High Auditorium.
3. Elyse noted that our next meetings are January 7, and after the public hearing, January 14. (January 17 snow date). Elyse will invite Planning Board to address and explain WA for **PlanNH Community Charette**.

Public Comments

None

9:10 pm Motion to adjourn, Bob/John, approved 7-0

Minutes respectfully submitted by William C Faria